

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A disk drive comprising:
a magnetic head having a write head for writing data on a data recording medium by a perpendicular magnetic recording method and a read head for reading data from the data recording medium; and
a disk recording medium provided with a plurality of tracks as data regions for storing data written by the write head and a guard band which is a non-recording region provided between tracks, the guard band being kept in an AC magnetized state or in a random magnetized state.
2. (Original) A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein the disk recording medium is a double-layered recording medium having a recording magnetic layer for storing data and a soft magnetic layer interposed between the recording magnetic layer and a substrate.
3. (Original) A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein the non-recording region of the disk recording medium is kept in a state where an AC magnetized pattern is recorded at a frequency equal to or higher than a maximum frequency of a signal magnetic field recorded in the tracks.
4. (Original) A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein the non-recording region of the disk recording medium is kept in an AC demagnetized state.
5. (Currently Amended) A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein the read head has a GMR (giant magnetoresistive) element and reads data recorded by the perpendicular magnetic recording method ~~while it~~ when the read head is close to a surface of the disk recording medium.
6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A process for manufacturing a disk drive of a perpendicular magnetic recording type, comprising:
a recording step for recording an AC magnetized pattern at a high frequency or a random magnetized pattern on an overall surface of the disk recording medium;
a track formatting step for forming a plurality of tracks on the overall surface of the disk recording medium with an area between the tracks left as a non-recording region; and
~~A process according to claim 6, further comprising~~ a servo write step for recording a servo signal in a predetermined servo area of the overall surface of the disk recording medium,
wherein the recording step for recording an AC magnetized pattern at a high frequency or a random magnetized pattern is performed with respect to the overall surface of the disk recording medium except for the predetermined servo area.

8. (Canceled)

9. (New) A process for manufacturing a disk drive of a perpendicular magnetic recording type, comprising:
recording an AC magnetized pattern at a high frequency or recording a random magnetized pattern on an overall surface of the disk recording medium;
recording a servo signal in a predetermined servo area of the overall surface of the disk recording medium; and
forming a plurality of tracks on the overall surface of the disk recording medium except for the servo area and a non-recording region provided between the tracks recorded in the AC magnetized pattern at a high frequency or in the random magnetized pattern .